



**MINISTERIAL INTERFACE MEETING 2022 ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
AGENDA UNDER THE ASEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY (AEC)
9 NOVEMBER 2022, PHNOM PENH, CAMBODIA AND VIDEOCONFERENCE
(HYBRID FORMAT)**

JOINT MEDIA STATEMENT

1. The Interface Meeting between the ASEAN Economic Community Council Ministers, ASEAN Agriculture and Forestry Ministers, ASEAN Energy Ministers and ASEAN Transport Ministers was held on 9th November 2022 in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. The Meeting was chaired by Cambodia.
2. The Meeting exchanged views on the global drive for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and the mounting pressure to address climate change issues across the whole spectrum of the economy. The Meeting noted ASEAN's initiatives in advancing sustainable development in the economic sector, while taking into account the respective policies and international commitments of each AMS, particularly the progress achieved in energy, food, agriculture, forestry (FAF), and transportation sector, as well as the implementation of the Framework for Circular Economy for the AEC. The Meeting recognised the need to build on the momentum and to take a whole-of-ASEAN approach in driving the agenda to achieve sustainable development in the region.
3. The Meeting acknowledged the cross-cutting sustainable development issues with deep implications to the region, particularly carbon neutrality, and the need for a collective ASEAN effort and strategy to identify synergies and potential cross-sectoral collaborations. The Meeting deliberated on the five key pillars¹ that will be

¹ The five key pillars refer to i) exploring establishing a GHG inventory; ii) development of nature-based solutions and ecosystem-based approach iii) development of market-based solutions; iv) investment in low-carbon technologies; and v) promotion of inclusive and sustainable infrastructure

the building block in developing a regional approach towards carbon neutrality² and expressed support for the development of a regional strategy to guide ASEAN's transition towards a carbon neutral economy, while at the same time strengthening ASEAN's resilience to the impacts of climate change. The Meeting subsequently tasked the ASEAN Secretariat to conduct a comprehensive study that will inform the development and facilitate cross-pillar coordination of a regional strategy for carbon neutrality.

4. The Meeting deliberated on the respective roles of economic sectoral bodies with regard to promoting and supporting ASEAN initiatives on sustainable development under the AEC, and the need to actively engage across all ASEAN community pillars in the development of the ASEAN Strategy for Carbon Neutrality. The Meeting stressed the importance of a collaborative, systematic, and coherent approach in advancing the work on carbon neutrality and green growth strategies in ASEAN. The ASEAN Strategy for Carbon Neutrality will be presented to the ASEAN Economic Ministers and ASEAN Economic Community Council in Q42023 for endorsement and adoption, respectively.
5. The Meeting further noted the importance of stakeholder engagement, public-private sector collaboration, and the need to further explore a governance structure that will provide oversight for the development of the carbon neutrality strategy.
6. The Meeting expressed appreciation to external partners in supporting ASEAN's sustainable development agenda, and looked forward to continued productive and fruitful engagements, particularly in the development of the ASEAN Strategy for Carbon Neutrality and its implementation.



² The concept note on ASEAN Strategy for Carbon Neutrality will be endorsed intersessionally by the ASEAN Economic Ministers and adopted intersessionally by the AEC Council.